

TRINITY UNITED
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)
“THE TRINITY OBSERVER”

January 2013

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Flint, Michigan 48507

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The Practice of Praise

The season of Lent is traditionally a time of prayer, fasting and self-examination in preparation for the celebration of the resurrection of the Lord at Easter. It is a period of 40 days — like Jesus’ time of testing in the wilderness. As we approach Lent, we will be reflecting on our Doxology; ***Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow!*** When things become routine to us sometimes we lose sight of its richness and depth. On an average Sunday, I wonder how many believers are in tuned with how much God has done for us and continues to do for us. Do we have an attitude of gratitude?

Psalm 34 reminds us that we are to *bless the Lord at all times—that his praises should continually be in our mouths*. Praise is an attitude that needs to be developed. Most of us can rattle off those areas in our lives where we are dissatisfied. Citizens of the world are more naturally in habit of speaking negatively and therefore this is not an attitude that needs to be developed. Being grateful and seeing our experiences from a perspective of thanksgiving requires practice and discipline—it’s not natural; it’s supernatural.

For example, just recently a friend was complaining about a bad day. He said the day started off when his car broke down on the way to work. He then called Triple A and of course waited an extremely long time for them

to arrive. Needless to say, he was frustrated. As I listened to him vent, I thought to myself this man has a job, a car, a cell phone, Triple A, he was not hurt and he did not hurt anyone—**Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow!**

The bible also reminds us in Hebrews 13:15 to *offer up a sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.* Praise is not a feeling—it's a lifestyle. I believe to continually praise God; we need to discipline ourselves. This will require sacrifice or giving up our own will and way. It will cause us to see the blessings even in the midst of the storms. It will cause us to appreciate things, people and lessons that we may be overlooking because we are in the habit of magnifying the negative. *Oh magnify the Lord, for God alone is worthy to be praised!* (Psalm 34:3)

The season of Lent provides us with a wonderful and timely opportunity to develop new disciplines through the **practice** of prayer, fasting, self-examination and, for this season, to develop the **practice** of praise. We will be studying and reflecting on the Book of Psalms. Maybe you might consider reading through the Psalms as part of your daily devotional time and joining us for both Sunday and Wednesday services. It could be just what you need. I will look for you on the journey.

Blessings for the season,

Pastor Lawson



Updates from the Session

- **Survey Team:** A sub-committee of the Personnel Team has been formed to create a survey in hopes to gather information about the congregation's music styles and preferences. This survey has been distributed and needs to be completed and returned by February 10, 2013. This information will be used in the creation of a job description for the music director position.
- **Lent 2013:** The worship committee had made plans for the Lenten Season. The theme for this year is ***"Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow."*** See attached schedule for all times and events for the Lenten and Easter seasons. The session encourages our members and friends to come out and participate.
- **Coffee Hour Team:** The Membership Team has done a great job setting up a coffee hour schedule for the entire year. We now have coffee hour teams and each team covers 3 or 4 Sundays. The coffee hour calendar is posted on the kitchen door. Thank you Membership Team!
- **TUPC Bowling Team:** Many may not know that our bowling team is also a fundraising team. Our fall league raised \$414.00 which has been designated for the general fund. The league will start up again after Easter.

SERMONS FOR FEBRUARY 2013

February 3, 2013	Jeremiah 1:4-10	<i>Sent By God</i>
February 10, 2013	2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2	<i>Freedom in Christ</i>
February 13, 2013	ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE at 6:45pm LENTEN THEME FOR 2013: <i>Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow</i>	
February 17, 2013	Psalm 91	<i>Praise God for Protection</i>
February 24, 2013	Psalm 27	<i>Praise God for Confidence</i>

CALENDAR ITEMS

Ash Wednesday Service – February 13, 2013 at 6:45pm---no meal
 Flint Institute of Music 7th Annual Black Music Family Festival – February

15-23, 2013

Wednesday Lenten Services Begins – February 20, 2013 at 6:00pm.

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

Church Women United is having their Annual meeting on Friday, February 1, 2013 at the Community of Christ Church in Clio with a light luncheon. Rev. Desiree Lawson will bring the devotion. All are welcome. For reservations and cost, please call Donna Sutton at 230-0043.

BLACK CLASSICAL MUSIC FAMILY FESTIVAL

A table will be reserved at the F.I.M. for the family and friends of Trinity Church for a Family Dinner and performance on Friday, February 22, 2013 at 6:00p.m. For tickets and more information, please contact T

COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

Trinity United Presbyterian Church is invited to attend the “Greater Flint Council of Church’s Annual Assembly Dinner and Meeting on February 26, 2013 at Baker College at 5:30p.m. The Harold Draper Award will be presented to Rev. Maurice Horne of the Lincoln Park United Methodist Church. For tickets and more information, please contact Barbara Shackelford for more information.

Council of Churches

Trinity United Presbyterian Church will be hosting “Church Women United Day of Prayer on Friday, March 1, 2013. Registration will be at 9:30a.m., with the service starting at 10:00a.m. Coffee will be served from 9:30-10:00a.m. Please come out to support and welcome the women of our church, and be a part of is day of prayer. The program ends around noon. Thank you for your support. Barbara Shackelford, 2nd vice of C.W.U.



*Anniversaries
and Birthdays
February*

Barbara & Don Wesley....10th

Pat Rice.....1st

Rosaline Brown.....4th

Fred Tumer.....5th

Joyce Pascal.....6th

Willie Lomax.....12th

Eddie Barney.....12th

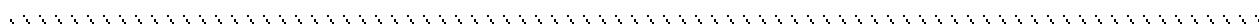
Ann Lomax.....15th

Donna Jones.....24th



Acolytes for February

Me'Onica Keahey & Undrea Fischer



*Special
Care*

A decorative graphic featuring a green vine with two small pink flowers and green leaves, positioned to the right of the word 'Care'.

**Ron Auger, Denny Bonney, James Bonney, Jesse Cook, Betty Elford,
Ruby Fizer, June Foltz, Tim Graham, Arlene Gullett, Dr. Alfred
Gwillim, Jane Harger, Richard Holland, Connie Hutchins,
Katie Granberry, Michael Jackson son of Dr. Ernestine Jackson,
Helen Johnson, Donna Jones with the loss of her daughter,
Leonard Krist, Ann Lomax, Jean Lyttle, Pat Miller, Roy Olson,
Audrey Resler, Randy Rice, Phyllis Scales, Joan Shirey, Larry Shoup,
Larry Tilley, Joyce Topham, Charles White, Georgene White,**

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faith

TRINITY UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LENTEN SEASON 2013

Theme: *Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow*

Ash Wednesday Service (*The Imposition of Ashes*)

February 13, 2013 6:45 pm

Wednesday Lenten Services (Meal & Worship)

February 20, 2013 (The Deacons)

6:00pm (Light Supper - Chile)

6:45 pm (Worship led by The Deacons)

February 27, 2013 (Presbyterian Women)

6:00pm (Light Supper - Soup)

6:45 pm (Worship led by Presbyterian Women)

March 6, 2013 (The Youth)

6:00pm (Light Supper- Spaghetti)

6:45 pm (Worship led by the Youth)

March 13, 2013 (The Choir)

6:00pm (Light Supper - Pizza)

6:45 pm (Worship led by the Choir)

March 20, 2013 (The Session)

6:00pm (Light Supper - Salads)

6:45 pm (Worship led by the Session)

Maundy Thursday Service (*Celebration of the Lord's Supper by (Intinction)*) March 28, 2013 6:45 pm

There will be **no supper on Ash Wednesday or Maundy Thursday**—worship only. For the 5 Wednesdays in Lent supper will begin at 6:00pm and worship at 6:45. Each Wednesday we will have a different menu: **Week 1; Chile, Week 2; Soup, Week 3; Spaghetti, Week 4; Pizza and Week 5; Salad.** There will be a sign up sheet for those who would like to contribute. There will be a team assigned to do set-up and clean up each week. **To cut down on clean up time, we are asking all participants to bring their own table service.** For each Wednesday worship service, a ministry team from the church will lead the worship experience. This team is not responsible for the meal or the clean-up. However, they may contribute.

MUSIC WORSHIP SURVEY

TRINTIY UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)

5151 Lennon Road, Flint, Michigan 48507

(810) 720-5152

Church music comes in VERY different forms, from traditional four-part hymns sung a cappella to guitar-and-drum melodies sometimes called “praise music”, hymns and anthems. One main part of selecting church music is to involve the congregation. To help compile a ‘Music Inventory’ of Trinity United members, please respond to this survey as completely as you can.

Please have each family member fill out separate forms. The results of this survey will be used to create a job description for the minister(s) of music.

1. What is your age range?

0-25 26-40 41-60 60+

2. Number of years you have been active in a church

0-5 6-10 11+

3. What is your family status

Married Married with children Single Minor

4. Has your church affiliation always been PCUSA?

Yes No

If not specify _____

**On a scale of 1-5, which style of music is most meaningful to you?
(Rank 1 as the least through 5 as the most meaningful)**

(Music listed is a sampling for each category)

HYMNS (Blue Hymnals, etc.) 1 2 3 4 5

A Mighty Fortress is Our God
The Church's One Foundation
Guide Me O Thy Great Jehovah
How Great Thou Art

ANTHEMS 1 2 3 4 5

Benedictus
Open My Eyes

CANTATAS (Christmas, Easter) 1 2 3 4 5

Hallelujah! What a Savior
Crown Him King

CLASSICAL 1 2 3 4 5

Handel's Messiah
Works of Bach, Beethoven & Mozart

PRAISE & WORSHIP 1 2 3 4 5

How Great is Our God
10,000 Reasons
Alpha & Omega

TRADITIONAL GOSPEL 1 2 3 4 5

God Has Smiled on Me
Lead Me, Guide Me
He's So Real

CONTEMPORARY GOSPEL 1 2 3 4 5

The Reason Why We Sing
Nobody Greater

Because of Who You are
 Let the Church Say Amen
 Now Behold the Lamb

SPIRITUALS 1 2 3 4 5

Guide My Feet
 Swing Lo, Sweet Chariot
 Kum Ba Yah (Come By Here, Lord)

CONTEMPORARY CHRISTIAN MUSIC 1 2 3 4 5

Lord, I Lift Your Name on High
 Christ Arose (VBS Version)

6. **How often do you sing-along in the service?**

- Regularly
- Sometimes
- Rarely

7. **If you do not sing regularly, what are the reason(s) why? Check all that apply.**

- Hymns are too hard
 - Music is not inspiring
 - No one else is singing
 - I've never sung
 - Other (specify)
-

8. **Would you like to sing/hear more of a variety of styles of music?**

- Yes
- No

9. Would you like to experience more variety of instruments and congregants' talents shared in the music?

- Yes No

Please explain:

10. What instruments do you appreciate in the service? (check all that apply)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Organ | <input type="radio"/> Strings (violin) |
| <input type="radio"/> Piano | <input type="radio"/> Percussions |
| <input type="radio"/> Guitar | <input type="radio"/> Horns (Saxophone) |
| <input type="radio"/> Chimes | <input type="radio"/> Bells |
| <input type="radio"/> Other (please specify) | |
-

11. What do you think about the amount of music in the service?

- Too Much Not Enough Just the right amount

12. When singing a new song, what would be the best way to introduce it?

Have the choir sing it first Have the choir sit out in the congregation

- Have the choir stand in the middle/side aisle Other

(please specify) _____

13. Name your two favorite church songs:

1. _____

2.

14. What Choir(s) do you enjoy hearing?

- Adult Children's Youth
 Praise Men's

15. What changes/additions would you suggest to our music department?

16. What are your suggestions on getting more people involved in the music ministry at Trinity?

17. Are you interested in participating in Trinity's music program?

- Yes No

18. If you are interested in joining Trinity's music ministry, what is of interest to you?

- Adult choir Children's Choir Praise Team
 Men's choir Youth Choir Hand Bells
 Soloist Special Group Trio

- Quartet Playing in Instrument Other

(please specify) _____

19. Would you be interested in these special Sundays? Select all that apply

- Children/Youth Music Sunday Guest choirs/performers
 Music Celebration Sunday Folk music Sunday
 Guest Music (e.g. Jazz, Bluegrass, Country Western, Taize
 Other (please specify)
-

20. Are you interested in extending our music ministry to include The Arts? such as: sign Language, poetry, dance & drama

- Yes No

21. General Comments

22. Please feel free to tell us your name (optional)

